

July 15, 1952

Dear Tom:

The research grant for which I was waiting has been confirmed, so that I can make a formal tender of the position discussed in my letter of July 2.

We are going on a vacation starting in a few weeks, and I would like to clear up all the red tape beforehand. Your appointment has been written up for September 1, 1952- August 31, 1953, but you can work this out as September 15- Sept. 14 if you prefer, without any formalities.

If you would like to make a formal acceptance, would you return the enclosed form, with any corrections or additions as necessary?

I am not sure how to interpret your rendition of Delbrück's ideas. Joe Bertani has done some very interesting substitution experiments, adding a mutant phage to cells already lysogenic for wild type. The results seem to substantiate a localization and segregation of the provirus, as if it were itself on the chromosome, rather than the alternative idea of a chromogene which regulates a cytoplasmic population of proviruses, like K/kappa. [I assume that Delbrück was speaking from the ms. of Esther's and my work— if you haven't seen it, MD and Hershey should each have copies now.] More recently, Larry Morse has found himself an excellent Ph.D. thesis problem— a transduction in K-12. ~~Substituted~~ Rare lambda particles do seem to carry "Gal+ genes". So far, this is the only marker that has been transducible; it may be no accident that this is closely linked to lambda in crosses. This limited transduction appears to be entirely distinct from the general recombination story.

Sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg